

Chrysanthemoides monilifera

subsp. monilifera

COMMON NAME

boneseed, bitou bush

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Chrysanthemoides monilifera (L.) Norl. subsp. *monilifera*

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

HABITAT

Terrestrial. mainly coastal areas, coastal cliffs, inshore islands, dry shrublands, shrubland margins, consolidated sand dunes, gumlands, roadsides, quarries, wastelands, exotic plantations and a threat to offshore islands.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Bushy, semi-woody, much branched shrub or small tree to 2-3 m. Young stems ribbed and woolly, becoming smooth. Leaves alternate, smooth, leathery, entire, 70 x 35 mm, margins irregularly toothed. Bright yellow daisy-like flowers, 25-30 mm diam, Sep-Feb. Fruit an oval green drupe, 6-9 mm, hard with thin fleshy covering, turning black, with very hard seed.

SIMILAR TAXA

The other subspecies (*C. monilifera* subsp. *rotundata*) is very weedy in Australia, but not known to be present in NZ. It has a more prostrate habit, has rounder leaves, and the flowers have more than 12 petals. Foliage is superficially similar to *Dimorphotheca* (*Osteospermum fruticosum*) but the habit and flowers of these plants are very different.

FLOWERING

September, October, November, December, January, February

FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

LIFE CYCLE

Perennial. Suspected seed bank viability extensive because seed is covered in hard coating i.e. bone-seed. Primarily reproduces via seed but vegetative reproduction is possible if stems come into contact with the soil. A mature bush can produce up to 50,000 seeds per year. Research indicates that 6-13% seeds remain viable after 3 yrs of burial with numbers increasing depending on depth of burial (Weiss 1984). Initially just over half the seeds are viable and can remain dormant inside the unsplit seed coat for up to 10 years. Seed is dispersed by birds, possums, humans and mammals.

YEAR NATURALISED

1870



Eastbourne. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 22/08/1984, Licence: CC BY.



Chrysanthemoides monilifera subsp. Photographer: Auckland Regional Council, Licence: Public domain.

ORIGIN

S.W. Cape area, South Africa

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental

TOLERANCES

Intolerant to shade and poor drainage and tolerant to drought. Fire kills plants but assists germination of seeds and the plant is reasonably tolerant to other physical damage. It is tolerant of low soil fertility, poor soils and sand.

ETYMOLOGY

monilifera: From the Latin monilis 'necklace' or 'collar' and ferre 'to bear'

NATIONAL PEST PLANT ACCORD SPECIES

This plant is listed in the 2020 National Pest Plant Accord. The National Pest Plant Accord (NPPA) is an agreement to prevent the sale and/or distribution of specified pest plants where either formal or casual horticultural trade is the most significant way of spreading the plant in New Zealand. For up to date information and an electronic copy of the 2020 Pest Plant Accord manual (including plant information and images) visit the [MPI website](#).

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/chrysanthemoides-monilifera-subsp-monilifera/>